

## REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. New claims 7 and 8 are supported, for example, by Fig. 2.

The title of the application has been amended so as to be more descriptive of the invention. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sakamoto et al. (U.S. 6,501,214). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Initially, Applicants note that Sakamoto was not published more than one year prior to the filing date of the present application. Therefore, it is not available as 35 USC 102(b) prior art. For purposes of this Amendment alone, Applicants are not disputing the reference's availability as 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior art.

The rejection refers to Figure 1 as showing element 7 as long frames, and opposing short frames that have substantially triangular bent parts. However, element 7 does not indicate a long frame. Rather, it identifies spring connectors that are attached to each of the sides of the frame 6. See Col. 5, line 3 and Figs. 9A-D. Nothing in the reference indicates whether the view of Fig. 1 is a section from the top or a section from the side. Therefore, there is no reasonable basis to assume that one of the particular elements in Fig. 1 is a long side instead of a short side.

Fig. 1 of Sakamoto appears to show a line that may be associated with the mask frame 6 and has some curvature toward the direction of the front of the apparatus. However, the depiction of the mask frame in Fig. 1 is sketchy to say the least. Sakamoto does not identify the curved portion of the line in Fig. 1 nor mention it at all in the specification. There is no indication of how the curve is formed, or which side(s) of the frame it is found on. Particularly telling is the fact that the detailed depictions of the mask frame in Figs. 9A-D fail to illustrate anything that corresponds to the curved portion of the line in Fig. 1. Such a nebulous disclosure is not sufficient to support anticipation of the bent parts required by claim 1. The disclosure also is inadequate to anticipate the relationship required by dependent claim 3, which thus is even further removed from the reference. New claims 7 and 8 also are further removed from the reference.

Applicants submit that it is more reasonable to assume that the curve in the line in Fig. 1 represents some reinforcement on the surface of the frame material and not bending of the frame. As seen in Figures 9A-D, the mask frame 6 includes four integral sides formed to have an L-shape in cross section. It is known in the art to form a reinforcement on this type of frame structure. For example, the Tani et al. publication (U.S. 2002-0024282 - cited but not applied in the Office Action) discloses in Figure 8 a mask frame 5 that includes a bead 8 formed to surround the mask frame 5. However, this bead 8 is formed not by bending the mask frame 8, but by embossing a groove on the mask frame 5 (See page 1, paragraph [0013] of Tani). Applicant also encloses for the Examiner's reference a copy of a published article ("Corner Lock Suspension," Donofrio, Robert L., Information Display, November 1995) that shows in Figure 6b a protrusion (bead) formed similarly as is shown in Figure 1 of Sakamoto. A form 1449 listing Donofrio is provided for the Examiner's convenience if the Examiner wishes to list the reference as considered during prosecution.

Considering the known techniques disclosed in Tani and Donofrio, the curved portion of the line shown in Figure 1 of Sakamoto should be regarded as beads for reinforcing the frame. Such beads might well be omitted from Figures 9A-D of Sakamoto because the beads are not essential for the invention of Sakamoto and such a bead is an insignificant deformation. However, a frame having an L-shape cross-section is difficult to bend, and should the curve portions of the line in Figure 1 of Sakamoto be formed by bending the frame, this clearly would have been discussed in detail, as this would require more than some insignificant deformation.

Given the techniques and structure disclosed in Sakamoto and the related disclosure in Tani and Donofrio, it is clear that Sakamoto fails to disclose "the short frames have substantially-triangular bent parts formed to protrude toward the shadow mask," as required by claim 1 and the claims that depend from it.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Watanabe et al. (U.S. 6,566,798). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Watanabe is only available as prior art under 35 USC 102(e). At the time the invention was made, the Watanabe reference and the present invention were owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to

the same person. Therefore, Watanabe is not available as prior art for this obviousness rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

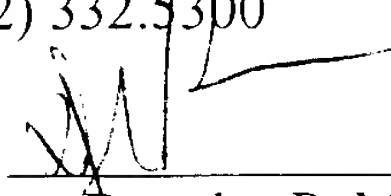
Claims 2 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakamoto (U.S. 6,501,214). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. As discussed above, Sakamoto fails to disclose every limitation of claim 1. Applicants further submit that Sakamoto fails to suggest every limitation of claim 1. Therefore, claims 2 and 4 are allowable for at least the reason they are dependent upon an allowable base claim. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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